



A.G. on Ag  
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An Update from Secretary Kawamura

## June 2006 : Farm Bill, Food Production and Fruit Flies

**When it comes to creating change in the \$95 billion 2007 Farm Bill budget, now is the time for California agriculture and its partners to be heard.** California plays an important role in our national health and security. The time has come to help refocus the nation's understanding of food, fiber and fuel in the next round of farm bill debates.

The farm bill is up for renewal next year and Governor Schwarzenegger has designated CDFA as the lead agency for creating a California perspective on this important legislation. As this administration seeks to gain more for California agriculture in this round of negotiations, I want to know what changes would most benefit you.

The new CDFA farm bill website [www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/farmbill/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/farmbill/) has posted information about the legislation itself, as well as information on upcoming scheduled events, updated news, public testimony and the ability to submit your comments online. Our department will be holding four specialized listening sessions across the state. General farm bill discussion will also be included in each session. You may register on the website to attend these meetings; please come prepared to speak about those issues specific to each region of the state. I invite and encourage you to participate in this process. At each location, county agricultural commissioners, legislative representatives and other state agency designees have been invited to serve as listening session panelists. If you have written testimony, please submit it to [farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov) by the date of the last listening session (August 1, 2006).

I continue to work with the [California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley](#) to ensure that agriculture is a full partner in the region's future. This partnership was created by Governor Schwarzenegger when he signed [Executive Order S-5-05](#). The group brings state agency secretaries and Central Valley representatives together to make recommendations to Governor Schwarzenegger regarding changes that would improve the economic well-being of the region and the quality of life of its residents. The 26-member partnership, led by the Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, is composed of eight state government members, eight local government members nominated by their County Council of Governments and eight private sector members, along with two deputy chairs. I've been an active member of this board and believe it's crucial to have agriculture as an integral partner of the Strategic Action Plan for the San Joaquin Valley. A [Blueprint Summit in Fresno](#) is planned for the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.



Continuing my efforts on behalf of the agricultural sector of the state's economy, I spoke recently during a forum of the [Economic Strategy Panel](#), which is part of the [California Regional Economies Project](#), led by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Both government and ag industry

representatives participated. Open forum discussions focused on key findings from the "California Food Chain at Work: Agricultural Production, Processing, Distribution and Support" monograph that is being produced under the auspices of the Economic Strategy Panel.

**Some of the key findings of this report are:**

- Three quarters of "food chain" employment is outside of production. Support activities comprise 35 percent, distribution is 19 percent and processing is 22 percent.
- Cluster opportunities exist in globalization, specialization (shift from mass market production to specialized markets), and technological innovation (driving change).
- Every region of the state has a unique food chain profile. At a future date, more detailed employment data will be presented for the Bay Area, Central Coast, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

In order to protect the ag economy and our food supply, our pest exclusion and eradication activities must never cease. This month a peach fruit fly (PFF) quarantine was established in an area overlapping Fresno and Madera counties. The total area of the quarantine is approximately 106 square miles: 95 in Fresno County and 11 in Madera County. A quarantine established during eradication activities helps convince our trading partners that the fly infestation will be contained in a vitally important tree fruit production region. "Male annihilation" treatments are now underway; male PFF are readily attracted to treated bait lures. As a result of this, females are unable to lay fertile eggs, thus ending the breeding cycle.

We are also combating separate [Diaprepes Root Weevil](#) infestations detected in Encinitas and Carlsbad, resulting in regulatory actions. This follows previous quarantines against this insect in La Jolla, Newport Beach and Long Beach. The weevil threatens more than 270 species of important crop and nursery plants grown in California. The [quarantine zone](#) regulations restrict the movement of green waste, plants and soil within the affected areas.



CDFA Trapper Ignacio Serrano services and inspects a Jackson trap baited with methyl eugenol in an orange tree in the Fresno County PFF zone.

Photo: A. Gilbert / CDFA

As always, thank you for your support and don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

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